



CITY OF REDMOND TRAILS COMMISSION



Trails Commission Meeting MINUTES — April 26, 2006 Redmond City Hall

TRAILS COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Smith; Co-Chair Barnfather; Commissioners Bechmann, McDonald, Youth Advocate, Pfaff.

ABSENT AND EXCUSED: Scott and Eades

CITY STAFF: Tim Cox, Park Planning Manager; Jeff Churchill, Planning and Community Development; and Sharon Sato, Recording Secretary.

AUDIENCE: None

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Trails Commission meeting was called to order by Chairperson Smith at 7:05 p.m. in the City Hall Building, Council Conference Room.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the March 29, 2006 as presented:
Commissioner Bechmann

Second by: Commissioner McDonald

Motion carried: Unanimous 4-0

III. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE/HANDOUTS

A. PBAC April Agenda

The April 10, 2006 Pedestrian Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting minutes were given to the Commission as an introduction to the Downtown Wayfinding Project. The attachment also included a section of the Trail Inventory which information works parallel to the current Commission's neighborhood connection project.

McDonald inquired if the Verizon Development near Grass Lawn Park would include trails that would connect the subdivision to the Park. Cox responded that there would be 24 homes built which would include a small open space and there would be two connections, one to Grass Lawn Park at the tennis wall and a trail at the west that connects to the park's northwest loop trail, linking to the northern boundary of the development.

B. Overlake Design Workshop/Charente Invitation and Schedule

Smith inquired if any members of the Commission would be available to attend. Staff will attend on Friday and Saturday. Staff will report back to the Commission on the discussion at a future meeting.

IV. DISCUSSION AND REPORTS

A. Wayfinding Projects – Jeff Churchill

Churchill updated the Commission on staff's Wayfinding proposal. Churchill noted that this presentation would be focused on trails in the downtown area and that staff has been working with KPG consulting firm on design concepts for new signs.

Concepts were presented to the Wayfinding Committee which is composed of representatives from Public Works, Parks, Planning, Communications and Reprographics.

Churchill handed out three sign design concepts (not actual alternatives of the proposal):

- Tier 1 signs – Directional – (Doubled sided)
- Tier 2 signs – Information Centers – (existing infrastructure along trails and parks where information can be changed – destination information)
- Tier 3 signs – Downtown Gateway – (located on major entry ways into city - welcoming signs – perimeter of city)

Churchill added that KPG, as part of the contract, would be designing different concepts of the column type design adding different art pieces on top.

The Wayfinding committee was receptive to somehow identifying some of the districts downtown – Bear Creek Trail, RiverWalk, Old Town and NE 83rd Street promenade.

Barnfather questioned whether the signs should look similar city-wide for consistency or different for specific areas. Churchill responded that visible differences in signs would give a "pro-active" approach to the given district/area.

McDonald noted he liked the logo design located on top of the pole and liked the solid board concept.

Bechmann commented that sometimes directional boards can be hard to read.

Smith inquired if sidewalk banding would be another way to give identity to a specific area – RiverWalk, Old Downtown, etc. – and give direction, or using a range of different color sidewalks. Bechmann commented that it would take the cooperation of businesses and the community to make this type of identification work. Churchill noted that businesses would have to be receptive. Smith added that in the future, a trail from the transit center (83rd), through the Heron Rookery, connecting to the Town Center/Bear Creek Trail might be a good candidate for sidewalk banding and would direction without a lot of signage.

Motion by Barnfather that the Trails Commission supports pursuing the concept of sidewalk banding, noting that the proposed trail route from the Transit Center at 83rd, to Town Center, through the Heron Rookery would specifically benefit from this type of Wayfinding.

Second by: McDonald

Motion carried: 4-0

Churchill added that a downtown parking management program along with sidewalk banding would encourage more people to walk. The Commission agreed that Wayfinding was a good start and positive start to get people comfortable to walking downtown and help redefine downtown.

B. Park Bond

Cox explained this would be a Parks and Recreation bond accompanied by a Maintenance levy. The bond may be presented to the public in November. Success of the proceeding City levy on May 16 may affect timing.

Cox continued to explain that the Park Board is the primary conduit that would determine and identify projects which would be on the November levy ballot, and the bond may identify as a Parks, Recreation, Trails and Arts Bond. Cox added that large trail projects are possible bond projects, such as completion of an important trail connection or purchase land to accommodate missing trail connections. Those types of projects would contribute to a successful bond measure.

Bechmann commented that it was suggested, as part of the bond input, primary trails that require significant funding, or trails that are not completely funded, should be the focus. He also noted that discussion is directed to projects specifically identified on the PIP or PRO Plan.

Smith noted there would be a discussion at the Joint Park Board, Trails Commission, Arts Commission and Heritage Commission meeting on May 4, 2006, and this would not be the last opportunity for Commission input. Smith suggested this would be an opportunity to specifically name projects the Commission would like to see as part of the list of specifics in the park bond.

Barnfather suggested two specific projects, Bear Evans Creek Trail and Burlington Northern Right-of-Way that would need funding and additional work. She also added that she would like to see a project that could be completed.

Bechmann agreed the two projects suggested by Barnfather were important and that it would be important to elaborate further on them. Also, demographic information may also be an important factor and geographic linkage.

McDonald suggested the word, "improvements" be used to identify the type of work done on projects, implying acquisition, design and construction.

Smith summarized the discussion by naming three major projects the Commission would suggest for the Bond list:

- Bear Evans Creek Trail
- Burlington Northern Railroad Santa Fe - BNSF
- Puget Power Trail Improvements and Extension

Cox noted the city-wide Transportation Plan advocates the PSE Trail as a non-motorized transportation link.

Smith noted that the Park Board had named the Nike Trail as a possible bond project and that further discussion by the Commission should take place.

Bechmann suggested this might be a good time to advocate the Burlington Northern Railroad system be linked to an interconnected trail system downtown.

After information is given to a Blue Ribbon Bond Committee (consisting of citizens), a suggestion will be made on what projects will be placed on the ballot.

Pfaff noted that Perrigo Park is in need of a safe trail or access off the main road to and from the park. Staff will discuss with the Bike Ped Committee and Transportation Division of Public Works to consider widening NE 95th and adding a sidewalk. McDonald suggested that a soft surface trail along the road would accommodate equestrians and pedestrians. Cox will explore input for the upcoming PRO Plan revisions, as a connector trail adjacent to the road.

Motion by Barnfather to confirm the Commission's top three projects as follows:

- Burlington Northern Santa Fe
- Bear Evans Creek Trail
- Extension and Improvement of the PSE Trail

Second by Bechmann

Motion carried: 4-0 (Unanimous)

C. Kiosk Siting for Tenhulzen Project

Cox reported that Tenhulzen Construction had constructed and donated a picnic shelter for Idylwood Park in 2005 and added that Tenhulzen has generously offered to make a donation this year to the City in the form of a small structure. The City would suggest a specific site and need. This year staff has been working with Tenhulzen who has expressed interest in providing a kiosk.

Cox asked the Commission for suggestions as to where they feel the kiosk would be most useful. Tenhulzen has expressed interest in putting the kiosk somewhere on the City Hall Campus, however additional Master Planning of the site is necessary.

Cox noted several possible locations for a trail informational kiosk. A site along the Sammamish River Trail at the PSE Trail pedestrian bridge; along the Bear Creek Trail behind Safeway; Bear Creek Trail near Redmond Way (Town Center portion) interfacing with the BNSF or another segment near Town Center. Staff recommends the PSE Trail at the River Trail intersection.

Motion by Barnfather to recommend support of the placement of the kiosk, donated by Tenhulzen, at the intersection of the PSE Trail and Sammamish River Trail.

Motion seconded by: McDonald

Motion carried: 4-0 (Unanimous)

D. Trails Connections

Smith reiterated assignments of the Commissioners to evaluate certain assigned trails/trail corridors. He asked that members identify the project/issue, current progress/status; needs and what would be identified as successful after one year. Each Commissioner was assigned a trail/trail corridor to monitor (up to one year) and to report back current conditions and one year status.

Commissioners will e-mail reports to staff to establish a cumulative report.

Bechmann – Valley View Trail - reported he surveyed the Valley View Trail, noting that entry to the trail, first few feet, was easily accessible however he found it difficult to access in some other places and found there was no well defined trail bed, on steep wooded terrain. Bechmann added that on the north end (adjacent to the PSE right-of-way), it would be the developer's responsibility (Avondale Estates) to establish a section of the trail.

Barnfather suggested including the significance of the links for background to the importance of the Commission's top ten connectors list. McDonald added he felt that adding any specification of milestones, goals and promotion should be addressed in the report.

Commissioners agreed that each project would be revisited after one year to determine progress. Bechmann expressed interest in accompanying city staff on a walk through the "missing link" site.

Pfaff will research the Red Brick Road and Redmond 74 areas, south of Perrigo Park. Staff will assist Pfaff in his endeavor.

E. Field Trip? When and Where?

Commissioner consensus of a field trip scheduled for July, however, further discussion will take place at the May meeting. Commissioners would like to visit projects they will be discussing during the next six months.

- F. Bear & Evans Creek Trail & Greenway Feasibility Study, May 2000
Commissioners were given a copy of the Feasibility Study, as background for the future master plan.

G. Project Reports

Trail at Bear Creek Park (Safeway Trail) – construction contract has been signed, pre-construction meeting has been completed and actual construction will begin the first week in May - 100-day construction period.

Bear Creek Trail at Avondale (Avondale and Redmond Way) - .8 acre piece (by Championship Motors at triangle north of Union Hill Road) has been purchased and negotiations are taking place for the final trail segment right-of-way south. Cox noted that design and construction of this segment will depend on future findings.

520 Extension to Sammamish River Trail – 520 bikeway coming down to West Lake Sammamish to Leary Way is under construction.

H. Other

Smith added that Slough Park should be noted as a park/trailhead by the Park Board. The Board will discuss Slough Park at their June meeting.

Before final approval of the master plan, staff would like to open Slough Park, with a few parking stalls for access to the Sammamish River Trail. Cox felt the park would be open to the public within the next two months on an interim basis. The number of parking stalls are yet to be determined. The Commission is recommending six, with the options of four more, low impact parking spaces.

Smith felt it would take more than two or three meetings to finalize the potential bond project list.

Motion by Barnfather that the Commission supports the interim use of Slough Park Trailhead and the addition of as many low impact parking spaces as feasible, ranging from six to ten

Second by: Bechmann

Motion Carried: 4-0

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary, Sharon Sato

**Audiotapes of regular Trails Commission meetings are available at
the Parks and Recreation Office at (425) 556-2311.**

**THE NEXT REDMOND TRAILS COMMISSION MEETING:
Wednesday, May 31, 2006
City Hall - City Council Conference Room
7:00 p.m.**